United Nations

A/HRC/32/G/7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 June 2016

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Letter dated 10 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

I present my compliments to you and, with reference to my letter dated 7 June 2016 (A/HRC/32/G/6), have the honour to request you to have my letter addressed to you on 17 May 2016 (see annex) circulated as a document of the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 4.*

(*Signed*) So Se Pyong

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

* Circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

GE.16-10009(E)

1610009

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

17 May 2016

Excellency Mr. President of the Human Rights Council,

I present my compliments to you and have the honour of writing to you as regards the group allurement and abduction of DPRK citizens by the south Korean authorities, which constitutes a clear human rights violation that should in no way be passed over in silence.

As already known, the south Korean authorities, engrossed with the smear campaign against the DPRK, let the agents of NIS (National Intelligence Service) commit the heinous terrorist act of alluring and abducting the DPRK's women citizens in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province of China in broad daylight in early April to south Korea.

This is a violent infringement upon the dignity and sovereignty of the DPRK, unpardonable grave political provocation inciting confrontation and tension between the north and the south and unprecedented heinous crime mercilessly abusing the human rights of the DPRK's citizens.

As soon as the case occurred, the DPRK strongly demanded that the south Korean authorities unconditionally send back the abductees of the DPRK without delay and take a practical measure at once for helping the parents of the abductees go to Seoul and meet their daughters face to face while bitterly denouncing the brutal act of the south Korean authorities.

Nevertheless, the south Korean authorities did not permit the elementary humanitarian demand of the parents but are talking about "voluntary defection from the north" while keeping the abductees in solitary cells and keeping them away from media.

Their inhumane behavior is the unethical crime denying even the most elementary rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international conventions on human rights.

In this regard, I would like to remind you of the letter addressed to you from the families of the twelve abductees, which has been attached with the Note Verbale of the DPRK Permanent Mission No. 0036 dated 22 April 2016.

Some time has passed since then, however it is very regrettable that your office has not taken any action concerning this case.

Whilst continued silence to such specific and unprecedented act of abduction by your office whose main mission is to promote and protect human rights worldwide, those twelve abductees incommunicado go on hunger strike ardently demanding their return to motherland and there is even some shocking news report that one of the twelve has fainted or died during hunger strike.

There is increasing suspicion over the behavior of south Korean authorities who have failed to release the conditions of the abductees recklessly keeping them incommunicado among several media and civil organizations of south Korea

including "MINBYUN" (Lawyers for a Democratic Society), who strongly demand the publication of truth about them.

Failure to take any action on such inhumane and large-scale human rights abuses may appear by itself of denying the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments and giving misimpression as if approving abduction and granting impunity to abductors.

The HRC, bearing in mind how to deal with this case will be a touchstone discerning the truth about promotion and protection of human rights, should take relevant measure to send the abductees of the DPRK back to the folds of their family members as soon as possible.

We will closely follow any step to be taken by your office and continue to seek further action as may be required.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) So Se Pyong

Ambassador, Permanent Representative